
SCRIPT

Processional – CMs walk two by two from the back of the house, up the middle of audience to designated places on stage. All are seated except for the first scene's Narrators, who are standing up front (downstage).

Introduction:

N: According to the dictionary, curiosity is the desire to know about something.

N: It usually starts when we begin to wonder why something happened or didn't happen.

N: It seems that every child is curious: eager to find out about the world he or she lives in.

N: Gradually, however, some people seem to become less and less curious.

N: Fortunately, throughout the history of science, scientists have maintained their child-like curiosity.

N: And because they wondered why, we live fuller, happier lives.

N: We'd like to tell you about 4 of those curious scientists, starting with Sir Isaac Newton.

N: Isaac Newton helped us to understand much about the world we live in.

N: One of his greatest discoveries was the law of gravity.

Scene 1: Sir Isaac Newton

Tree is standing with apple on string and Newton is seated below.

N: Isaac Newton was sitting under an apple tree one day wondering what kept the moon in orbit around the earth.

N: Then, suddenly, an apple fell and hit him on the head and he immediately formulated the law of gravity.

Tree drops apple on ISAAC's head. Then, suddenly, two CMs seated in the audience come up to the stage and say...

CM1: Hold on. Hold on. The apple didn't hit him on the head.

CM2: That's right, he saw it fall from a window.

The DIRECTOR jumps up from director's chair, crosses to center stage and CM1 picks up a window frame.

Director: Cut ... OK people, let's try it again ... has anyone got a window?

???: Here, use this. (handing Newton a window frame)

Director: Thanks ... now ... action!



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NARRATORS move to side. Newton stands near Tree with window frame and holds it up as he looks through it – facing audience.

N: Isaac Newton was looking out a window one day wondering what kept the moon in orbit around the earth.

N: Then, suddenly, an apple fell from a nearby tree. (Tree drops apple)

N: And he immediately formulated the law of gravity.

CM2: Very nice, well done

CM1: Accurate.

N: So, we see that slightly inaccurate legends can grow up, even in science.

N: The important thing is that Isaac Newton's curiosity helped us to understand our world.

Director moves chair to side before song (quickly). Lights out and all students line up in designated spaces for the Curiosity Song. [During this song, pictures can be projected onto a screen showing photos of students acting out lines from the song – e.g., Students happy/healthy for "some were well" and students under a blanket looking feverish for "some were sick in bed". The photos can be silly and it's a good idea to include every student somewhere in the presentation.

{CURIOSITY SONG}

Lights out. 3 NARRATORS step into place.

N: Our next scientist is Ignaz Semmelweis.

Cast: huh?

N: He was a doctor at the main hospital in Vienna.

N: And was the name of the hospital, the Allgemeines Krankenhaus?

N: Yes, how did you know?

N: Lucky guess.

N: In any case, during the early 1800s many mothers were dying of childbed fever.

N: It would be many years before Pasteur discovered the germ or Elizabeth Blackwell pioneered cleanliness in hospitals.

N: So, Semmelweis had no way of knowing that the disease was spread by doctors who didn't wash their hands even after working with dead bodies.

Cast: ahh gross!.

N: But Semmelweiss was a very curious person.



SCRIPT

Lights out. CM tears off sheet from sign. CM puts up skeleton. Corpse gets on table. CM covers body with sheet.

Scene 2: Ignaz Semmelweis

Doctor: Listen to this Ignaz. Head Nurse, make your report.

Head Nurse: Two more died of childbed fever in the doctors ward.

Doctor : And the midwife's ward?

Midwife: Nobody in our ward seems to get it.

Semmelweis : Very curious.

Kolletschka staggers in and collapses.

Doctor : Ignaz, it's your friend Dr Kolletschka.

Nurse: He looks like he has childbed fever, but that's not possible.

Semmelweis: Jakob, my friend, did you cut yourself while examining a dead body?

Kolletschka: Ignaz, my friend, how did you know that? Arrghh (dies).

Doctor: Because of curiosity, I'll bet.

Semmelweis : Yes, and from now on, everyone must wash their hands, and really scrub.

Cast: Yes, doctor.

Lights out. Spaced across the 5 Scrubbers in white lab coats stand up front (downstage). To the left of each Scrubber is a white-coated Holder with their back to the audience, holding a hand-washing basin (plastic bowl).

Lights on.

{Scrubber's rap}

After each Verse of the Scrubbers Rap and before the start of the Chorus, the Holders will turn their basins toward the doctors so that the doctors can go through hand-washing motions. At the start of the second verse, they turn back and repeat. After the singing part of the song, all turn and file off the stage.

Lights out.

